

BOOK REVIEWS

CALIFORNIA MEDICINE does not review all books sent to it by the publishers. A list of new books received is carried in the Advertising Section.

CARDIOLOGY—A Clinicophysiological Approach—Edited by Stephen M. Ayres, M.D., Director, Cardiopulmonary Laboratory, St. Vincent's Hospital and Medical Center of New York; Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine, New York University School of Medicine; John J. Gregory, M.D., Assistant Director, Cardiopulmonary Laboratory, St. Vincent's Hospital and Medical Center of New York; Asst. Professor of Clinical Medicine, New York University School of Medicine; With the assistance of Meta E. Buehler, B.S., R.N., Administrative Coordinator, Cardiopulmonary Laboratory, St. Vincent's Hospital and Medical Center of New York. Appleton-Century-Crofts, Educational Division/Meredith Corporation, 440 Park Ave., South, New York City (10016), 1971. 667 pages, \$15.00.

The past decade has seen almost explosive expansion of our knowledge of cardiovascular diseases. The authors' objective of reviewing this information clearly and concisely to enable the practicing physician to treat patients according to sound physiologic principles is indeed laudable. Unfortunately, the present effort falls far short of the mark. The text attempts a broad survey of cardiology and uses the format of the standard cardiology book.

The initial chapters on manifestations of cardiac diseases and the later chapters on pregnancy and the heart, cardiac tumors, and cardiac trauma are so superficial that they are virtually superfluous. The strongest chapters are on cardiac function and abnormal ventricular function; a real effort is made to simplify difficult concepts and to relate these concepts to the pathogenesis of disease. Unfortunately, even in these sections (and this is equally true for every chapter), controversy is circumvented and the reader is left with a highly oversimplified, rather dogmatic presentation.

The section on "phonocardiography and other graphic techniques" is seriously dated and incomplete. Newer concepts regarding the genesis of heart sounds, the pathogenesis and clinical importance of late systolic clicks and murmurs as well as the use of graphic techniques in differentiating patients with supra-aortic, valvular, and subvalvular aortic stenosis are omitted. Similarly, there is no mention of the technique and usefulness of systolic time intervals or of the use of apex cardiography in the diagnosis of ventricular aneurysms and valvular or constrictive myocardial disease. Incredibly enough, there is no mention of the clinical usefulness of echo cardiography.

The sections on electrocardiography, diagnosis of arrhythmias, and therapy of cardiac arrhythmias give the reader little insight into basic electrophysiologic concepts, consisting only of a list of facts. Rational use of antiarrhythmic agents demands some familiarity with their cellular and monophasic action potential as well as with the importance of automaticity and re-entry in the genesis of arrhythmias. The effects of drugs and/or electrolyte abnormalities on resting and threshold potentials, conduction velocity, refractory period, and membrane responsiveness are given scant or no mention.

In summary, the present textbook cannot be recommended either for beginners or for internists seeking a resource monograph. The currently available standard cardiology texts are broader in scope and of greater

depth than the present effort. In the next revision the authors should narrow the scope of the book, focusing on the physiology, pathophysiology, diagnosis, and treatment of the more common cardiac ailments.

MELVIN SCHEINMAN, M.D.

* * *

HANDBOOK OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY—Fourth Edition—Ralph C. Benson, M.D., Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Chairman, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Oregon Medical School Hospitals and Clinics, Portland. Lange Medical Publications, Drawer L, Los Altos, Ca. (94022), 1971. 775 pages, \$6.50.

In this pocket-size edition, the author succeeds in his intent to provide a concise and current digest of material pertinent to good obstetrical practice. The section on obstetrics is well written and includes chapters on contemporary topics such as therapeutic abortion, sterilization, and emotional aspects of pregnancy.

The gynecology chapters provide a more than adequate summary of the basic principles of gynecologic care. Included in this section is a review of pertinent aspects of infertility in both the male as well as the female. At the opposing end of the spectrum is a discussion of methods of contraception, including that of the intrauterine device.

Professor Benson has wisely recognized the importance of medical genetics and his chapter on this topic is timely. Although it is brief, it provides basic definitions, a discussion of the common hereditary disorders, and a discussion of problems associated with intersexuality.

While this book was never meant to be a substitute for a complete textbook, it is an extremely useful synopsis for the busy practitioner.

ARTHUR I. GOLDSTEIN, M.D.

* * *

BECKER-SHAFFER'S DIAGNOSIS AND THERAPY OF THE GLAUCOMAS—Third Edition—Allan E. Kolker, M.D., Associate Professor of Ophthalmology and Associate Director of the Glaucoma Center, Department of Ophthalmology, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis; and John Hetherington, Jr., M.D., Assistant Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology and Associate Director of the Glaucoma Center, University of California Medical Center, San Francisco. The C. V. Mosby Company, 3207 Washington Blvd., St. Louis, Mo. (63103), 1970. 495 pages, with 383 illustrations and 6 color plates, \$25.00.

This third edition of the Becker-Shaffer text has been revised to include the latest information on glaucoma which has accumulated over the past five years. This includes the renewed interest in cupping of the optic disc as an early sign of progression of the glaucomatous process. Fluorescein angiography in relation to glaucoma is treated in detail. Static perimetry, topical corticosteroid testing and an entire section on microsurgery of the outflow channels are of special interest to the ophthalmic surgeon.

This text is readable and is highly recommended.

R. M. SINSKEY, M.D.